

CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1. A gaming apparatus for conducting a wagering game, comprising an electro-mechanical award display, the award display including a plurality of physical elements
5 movable between an extended position and a retracted position to indicate a game outcome.
2. The apparatus of claim 1, further including a housing, the physical elements being movable relative to a panel of the housing.
- 10 3. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the physical elements protrude from the panel when in the extended position and are approximately flush with the panel when in the retracted position.
- 15 4. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the physical elements are approximately flush with the panel when in the extended position and are recessed relative to the panel when in the retracted position.
- 20 5. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the physical elements are arranged in a line.
6. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the physical elements are movable in sequence.
7. The apparatus of claim 1, further including a processor operative to move each
25 of the physical elements between the extended position and the retracted position, stop each of the physical elements in either the extended position or the retracted position, and provide the outcome based on which of physical elements stop in the extended position and which of the physical elements stop in the retracted position.
- 30 8. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the physical elements are associated with respective outcomes.

9. A gaming apparatus for conducting a wagering game, comprising:
an electro-mechanical award display including a plurality of physical elements;
and
a processor operative to
5 record a wager to play the wagering game, and
in response to a predetermined criterion, move the physical elements
between an extended position and a retracted position to
indicate a game outcome.
- 10 10. The apparatus of claim 9, further including a housing, the processor being
operative to move the physical elements relative to a panel of the housing.
11. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the physical elements protrude from the
panel when in the extended position and are approximately flush with the panel when
15 in the retracted position.
12. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the physical elements are approximately
flush with the panel when in the extended position and are recessed relative to the
panel when in the retracted position.
- 20 13. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the physical elements are arranged in a line.
14. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the processor is operative to move the
physical elements in sequence.
- 25 15. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the processor is operative to stop each of the
moving physical elements in either the extended position or the retracted position, and
provide the outcome based on which of physical elements stop in the extended
position and which of the physical elements stop in the retracted position.
- 30 16. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the physical elements are associated with
respective outcomes.

17. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the predetermined criterion is a start-bonus outcome in a basic portion of the wagering game.

18. A method of conducting a wagering game on a gaming machine, the gaming machine including an electro-mechanical award display including a plurality of physical elements, the method comprising:

receive a wager to play the wagering game; and

in response to a predetermined criterion, moving the physical elements between an extended position and a retracted position to indicate a game outcome.

19. The method of claim 18, further including a housing, the physical elements moving relative to a panel of the housing.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein the physical elements protrude from the panel when in the extended position and are approximately flush with the panel when in the retracted position.

21. The method of claim 19, wherein the physical elements are approximately flush with the panel when in the extended position and are recessed relative to the panel when in the retracted position.

22. The method of claim 18, wherein the physical elements are arranged in a line.

23. The method of claim 18, wherein the physical elements move in sequence.

24. The method of claim 18, further including stopping each of the moving physical elements in either the extended position or the retracted position, and providing the outcome based on which of physical elements stop in the extended position and which of the physical elements stop in the retracted position.

25. The method of claim 24, wherein the physical elements are associated with respective outcomes.